GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6314
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2000
OUT OF ORDER TELEPHONES
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cables are being cut by unscrupulous people or snag appears therein and the Government have not been able to control the same thereby failing to provide a proper and satisfactory service to the telephone subscribers in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of times the cables have been cut/stolen in each of the last three years till date;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) whether a large number of telephones in various telephone exchanges in Delhi particularly in R.K. Puram area are lying out of order at present;

(f) if so, the reasons therefore; and (g) the time by which the said telephones are likely to be made functional?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes Sir. Despite precautionary measures, such as intensified patrolling on the vulnerable (theft prone) cable routes in co-ordination with the police authorities having been taken, some cable thefts do occur in different parts of Delhi, thereby affecting the telecom services. These cables are restored on war footing to provide satisfactory service to the affected customers.

(b) The details of number of theft cases during the last three years in MTNL, Delhi are as below :

Year	No. of cables
1997-98	238
1998-99	194
1999-2000	179

(c) All these cable theft cases are being reported to concerned police stations for investigations. Also co-ordination meetings are being held with Police Authorities even at senior levels to curb frequent occurance of such cable thefts.

(d) No significant output reflecting reduction in Cable theft has been noticed so far.

(e) to (g) No Sir, as on 28.4.2000, 4484 subscribers were affected due to cable break down only in the M.T.N.L., Delhi Network. However, in R.K. Puram only one underground distribution cable of size 200 pairs was damaged by outside agency on 24-4-2000, affecting telephone services to 39 subscribers. This cable has now been restored and the services are normalized.